

Name: _____ Science 1 2 3 4 5

Microbe and Classification Vocabulary Exercises



Hi my name is ALF, Alien Life Form get it? Anyway, I am studying the life forms on your planet and I have a few questions about some of the vocabulary I have encountered. Help me out by answering my questions and explaining your answers. Thanks!

1.) **Prokaryote** - Can I have a good discussion with a prokaryote?

No, you cannot have a good discussion with a prokaryote because they are one celled organisms that lack a nucleus and cannot talk.

2.) **Eukaryote** - Could a eukaryote be elected president of the United States? Maybe, since eukaryotes are organisms whose cells have a nucleus and human beings are eukaryotes, then maybe one could be elected president.

3.) **Nucleus** - Is a nucleus alive?

No, a nucleus is not alive. It is a part of a living thing, but is not alive on its own.

- 4.) **Autotroph** – Is an autotroph a car that doesn't need a driver?
No, an autotroph is an organism that makes its own food and has nothing to do with cars.
- 5.) **Heterotroph** - Is a heterotroph someone that likes to read different types of books?
A heterotroph is an organism that cannot make its own food and humans are heterotrophs so, I guess it is possible that a heterotroph might like to read different genres of book.
- 6.) **Parasite** - Should I invite a parasite to dinner?
I would definitely not invite a parasite to dinner because I might become the host. A parasite is an organism that eats off of another and I would not want that to be me!
- 7.) **Fungi** - Is a fungi a fun guy to take to a party?
Most people would not want a fungus to be a guest at a party. They do not speak and although people like to eat certain mushrooms, some fungus cause diseases and people would not appreciate them at a party.
- 8.) **Homeostasis** - Is homeostasis a contributing factor in Global Warming? Homeostasis is the state of maintaining stable internal conditions. Global Warming is a state of change for our planet and so homeostasis is not being maintained for our climate.

- 9.) **Binomial Nomenclature** - Is this why all of your species use first and last names? Well, not exactly, we do use two names, but those reflect our relationships to family members not our scientific classification. Binomial nomenclature reflects an organisms classification and each member of a species carries the same two names.
- 10.) **Virus** - Is a virus a good idea? A virus is not a good idea. It is a non-living particle that is capable of infecting living cells and causes diseases.
- 11.) **Taxonomy** - Is this what the government takes out of my pay check every week? Taxonomy is the study of classification of living things and has nothing to do with taxes.
- 12.) **Binary Fission** - Can I drink binary fission for breakfast? Even though it sounds like a cool energy drink, binary fission really is the way bacteria reproduce asexually by making exact copies of themselves.
- 13.) **Symbiosis** - Can I use symbiosis on my beginning of the year literature postcard ? No, you cannot use this for your Lit postcard, that would be symbolism. Symbiosis refers to a relationship between two or more organisms in which at least one of them benefits.

- 14.) **Mutualism** - Is this the insurance company that is advertised on TV? No, this is not an insurance company, it is a relationship between two or more organisms where both of them benefit.
- 15.) **Protists** - Did I see one of these guys on the news carrying signs in front of the White House? No, you are thinking of protestors, a protist is a eukaryotic organism that cannot be classified as a plant, animal, or fungi.
- 16.) **Pasteurization** - When cows go in the field to eat grass are they on pasteurization? No, pasteurization is the heating of food in order to kill the bacteria that may be harmful to humans.
- 17.) **Bacteria** - Are bacteria the next super heroes? I do not think they are the next superheroes although some bacteria are very helpful to humans. Bacteria are prokaryotes that are capable of reproducing themselves and have all the characteristics of living things.
- 18.) **Archaea** - Is this someone that digs up mummies in Egypt? Archaea is a domain of organisms that contains prokaryotic bacteria that live in extreme environments.